

EGREMONT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 2nd, 2019 – 10:00 am

Attending: Susan Bachelder, Bill Wood, Rebecca Turner, Stephen Piersanti, Abigail Rogers-McKee, Barbara Kalish, Elliott Snyder

Visiting: George McGurn

- Meeting minutes were approved from the December meeting – there was no January meeting
- **Egremont Heights Sign:** The EHC reached out via a letter to David Mac Neill about the Egremont Heights sign on his property. The Sign has been registered in the Mass Cultural Research Information System (MACRIS) and is severely deteriorating. The commission was interested in possibly fixing the sign but Mr. Mac Neill was not receptive. Susan will write another letter about the possibility of removing it from the property.
 - Elliott suggested that there are other buildings and landmarks around town that are deteriorating such as the Abram Smoke House (2 Boice Rd – MACRIS EGR 146). The EHC could create a form letter to property owners for permission to photograph or document the items or buildings for the record.
- **South Egremont Church:** The Congregational Church is formally asking the town to accept the church building and property as a gift to the town. This will be done as a Town Meeting warrant item on May 7th. The EHC feels that this would be a great opportunity for the town, but without a formal structural assessment or Historic Structures Report, there are too many unknowns about the cost of renovating and maintaining the building. Susan will be composing an article for the next town newsletter about the history of the church and the EHC position on the vote.
- **MACRIS:** Rebecca has received emailed PDFs of the draft forms for the 2018 MACRIS files. The link for these files will be forwarded to the commission for review at the April meeting.
- **South Egremont School:** Barbara has been looking into the plans for the addition of an accessible ramp and bathroom renovations to the South Egremont School. She has scheduled a conference call with the architect Lynn, Mary Brazie, Bruce Turner and members of the EHC to review the work and present possible modifications to the plans.
 - The EHC has suggested in the past moving the ramp from the East side of the building (as currently designed) to the West side. This would bring the ramp closer to the parking area. Barbara also suggested that in addition to this, the ramp could be a pre-fabricated metal ramp in order to minimize the impact on the building and as a cost savings. She shared a photo of a similar ramp installed at the historic Irondale Schoolhouse in Millerton NY.
- **Oral History:** Barbara is continuing work on organizing an oral history for the Archives. She would like members of the EHC to email her possible townspeople to add to an interview list so she can get an idea of the scope of the project. Susan noted that there had been an article in the Berkshire Eagle about oral histories from the NAACP being presented through the Housatonic Heritage Oral History Center at Berkshire Community College. She suggested that Barbara reach out to them as well about the project.
- **Education:** There is a Preservation New England seminar on Adaptive Reuse on March 20th in Greenfield, MA that members of the EHC can attend.
- The meeting concluded at 11 with members staying to clean and file items in the archives.

Next Proposed Meeting: March 2nd @ 10:00 am

Submitted by Rebecca Turner, Secretary